

AMERICAN REGISTER FOR STEAMSHIP CHINA.

JUNE 4, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PAYNE, from the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10548.]

The Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10548) to provide an American register for the steamship *China*, recommend that the same do pass.

This vessel is owned by a domestic corporation, and is now sailing under the Hawaiian flag. The War Department has chartered the vessel for the transportation of troops to Manila, and it is necessary that register be granted in order to carry out the purposes of the Secretary of War, as will appear by the annexed letter.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 31, 1898.

SIR: I beg to advise you that the War Department has chartered the steamship *China* of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for a transport from San Francisco to Manila, on reasonable terms and under the same conditions as those contained in the charter of the *City of Sidney*, and I therefore have the honor to urgently request that this vessel may be admitted to American registry at the earliest practicable date.

Very respectfully,

G. D. MEIKLEJOHN,
Assistant Secretary of War.

HON. SERENO E. PAYNE,
Chairman Committee on the Merchant Marine
and Fisheries, House of Representatives.